



KENORA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

SUBMITTED BY: Kenora District Services Board YEAR:
2024

BACKGROUND:

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are two National Housing Strategy funding streams that are federally and provincially funded and transferred to Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board.

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) was designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time.

The Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) was designed to support Ontario Housing Service Managers to help communities address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair, and new construction.

As part of the Canada and Ontario signing of the Bilateral Agreement through the Nation Housing Strategy, the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. The COCHI was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers and housing providers an opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities.

More importantly, the annual allocation of the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement.



However, in 2023/24, the funding formula was altered, and the KDSB will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base year. The decrease in annual funding is projected to \$1,635,929 by 2028.

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are Federal and Provincial funding programs designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time.

WHEREAS the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement and was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board and District Housing Providers the opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities.

WHEREAS the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement.

WHEREAS the Kenora District Services Board and District Municipalities will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base funding year and will continue to see a funding decrease of \$1.63 million by 2028.

WHEREAS it is estimated that by 2030, the District of Kenora's community housing portfolio's capital deficit will reach \$30.28 million.

WHEREAS the District Municipalities continue to grow and provide the backbone of Ontario's mining and resource extraction ambitions, the COCHI and OPHI programs need to ensure that communities are given the tools to work with Ontario and prepare for this growth.

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Kenora District Municipal

Association requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing change the COCHI and OPHI funding allocation formula so that Ontario Housing Service Managers continue to receive, at minimum, an allocation that will offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement setting 2019 as the base year; and further



THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing ensure that the COCHI and OPHI programs provide the Kenora District Services Board and the District Municipalities with the funding based on the needs of the communities, not presumptive census data.

COMMITTEE ACTION

CONVENTION ACTION

Concurrence_____

Concurrence_____

Concurrence as Amended_____

Concurrence as Amended_____

Non-Concurrence_____

Non-Concurrence_____

KDMA President